What is claimed is:

1   1.   A machine-implemented method for managing access to data, the method comprising the

2   steps of:

3   detecting that a database command requires access to a particular combination of

4   information that is located in at least two tables; and

5   in response to the step of detecting, if the particular combination is a combination to

6   which access is limited, rewriting said database command by creating a modified

7   database command, based on the database command.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting causes an invocation of a policy that

2   causes a generation of a condition expression; and

3   wherein rewriting causes the modified database command to include the condition

4   expression.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the generation of the condition expression is performed by

2   referencing a policy function that returns the condition expression.

1   4.   The method of claim 2, wherein the policy is not triggered by detecting that a database

2   command requires access to a subset of tables of the at least two tables, wherein the subset of tables

3   includes at least one table.

1   5.   The method of claim 2, wherein the detecting detects metadata includes one or more

2   parameters that indicate which tables and which columns of the tables form the particular

3   combination of information.

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1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular combination of information is a particular

2 combination of columns.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the detecting includes detecting that metadata defines the

2 particular combination of columns as a combination of columns to which access is controlled.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of registering a policy function with a

2 policy, wherein the policy function returns a condition expression, and the modified database

3 command is based on the condition expression and the database command.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the policy includes metadata identifying columns that are

2 included in the particular combination of information.

3 10. A machine-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions, which when

4 executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform a method

5 comprising the steps of:

6 detecting that a database command requires access to a particular combination of

7 information that is located in at least two tables; and

8 in response to the step of detecting, if the particular combination is a combination to which

9 access is limited, rewriting said database command by creating a modified database

10 command, based on the database command.

1   11.   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the step of detecting causes an

2   invocation of a policy that causes a generation of a condition expression; and

3   wherein rewriting causes the modified database command to include the condition

4   expression.

1   12.   The machine readable medium of claim 11, wherein the generation of the condition

2   expression is performed by referencing a policy function that returns the condition expression.

1   13.   The machine readable medium of claim 11, wherein the policy is not triggered by detecting

2   that a database command requires access to a subset of tables of the at least two tables, wherein the

3   subset of tables includes at least one table.

1   14.   The machine readable medium of claim 11, wherein the detecting detects metadata includes

2   one or more parameters that indicate which tables and which columns of the tables form the

3   particular combination of information.

1   15.   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the particular combination of

2   information is a particular combination of columns.

1   16.   The machine readable medium of claim 15, wherein the detecting includes detecting that

2   metadata defines the particular combination of columns as a combination of columns to which

3   access is controlled.

1   17.   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises the step

2   of registering a policy function with a policy, wherein the policy function returns a condition

3   expression, and the modified database command is based on the condition expression and the

4   database command.

1   18.   The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the policy includes metadata

2   identifying columns that are included in the particular combination of information.